

From: Julie Orchard
To: Petersen, Rea
Date: 9/23/2008 4:22 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Arthur Sutherland

CC:

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 9/23/2008 1:28 PM >>>

Below is an inquiry which was received by the Governor's Office of Constituent Services on 09/23/2008. Please respond directly to the constituent and reply to this email with a copy of your response by 10/7/2008.

Arthur A. Sutherland

Email Address: _____

SUBJECT:

Dear Governor Huntsman:

I urge you not to allow cuts in funds for utility regulators during the current search for ways to reduce the state budget. Those funds are taken separately from ratepayers and are not the result of any other form of taxation. We should not allow the reallocation of those funds to cover shortages caused by the imprudent tax cuts of the past several good years.

We are seeing, once again, the cycle of tax cuts in good years followed by budget cuts in the bad years. In the end that cycle will lead to the impoverishment of Utah and its quality of life.

Thank you.

From: Julie Orchard
To: Petersen, Rea
Date: 9/22/2008 2:34 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Nancy Mitchell

CC:

, that we should frame. Thanks for adding it to the docket, Merilee. JPO

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 9/22/2008 1:56 PM >>>
FYI

Nancy E Mitchell

Office Phone:same
Cell Phone:

Email Address:

SUBJECT:

Dear Governor Huntsman; I understand there will be a special session of the Legislature within a few days. As one of the issues to possibly be discussed, I ask that you not vote to decrease the funding for the Public Services Commission. this is the agency to whom we the consumer can go to have our grievances with the utilities heard. We the consumer are getting less and less voice and this Commission does a good advocating for us. Please keep the consumers voice alive!

Thank you,
Nancy Mitchell

From: Julie Orchard
To: Livingston, Merilee; Petersen, Rea
Date: 9/22/2008 2:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Larry Norman

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 9/22/2008 12:08 PM >>>

Below is an inquiry which was received by the Governor's Office of Constituent Services on 09/22/2008. Please respond directly to the constituent and reply to this email with a copy of your response by 10/6/2008.

Larry Norman

Cell Phone:

Email Address:

SUBJECT:

Please do not reduce the funds for the regulatory agencies. These funds are provided by a pass through of charges made to the rate payers by the utilities.

These agencies are the only protection we as rate payers have from the millions the utilities spend to influence the legislature and the committees. the rate payers need a stronger voice, not a diluted one.

From: Julie Orchard
To: Petersen, Rea
Date: 9/22/2008 11:36 AM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from richard lucy

CC:

Here is another constituent services questions from the Gov.'s Office. Thanks, and we will print this and add it to our reconsideration 07-035-93 file. JPO

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 9/22/2008 11:10 AM >>>
FYI & file

richard daniel lucy

UT

Email Address:

SUBJECT:

Sir - Please do not allow the regulatory budget for utilities to be reduced. Those folks would soon double rates and all for good reasons without adequate regulation. I suggest a small levy - perhaps .01 mills/kwh be assessed the rate payers to fund a proper acctg/engineering regulatory effort. They lately showed their arrogance with a threat to reduce services - are you going to run from that?

From: Julie Orchard
To: Petersen, Rea
Date: 9/23/2008 4:09 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Roy Goodwin

CC:

Here is still another. JPO

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 9/23/2008 11:09 AM >>>

Below is an inquiry which was received by the Governor's Office of Constituent Services on 09/23/2008. Please respond directly to the constituent and reply to this email with a copy of your response by 10/7/2008.

Roy Goodwin

Office Phone:

Email

SUBJECT:

Governor Huntsman,

It has been reported in the Salt Lake Tribune (Robert Gehrke, 18 September) that you will likely call the Legislature into special session this week to cut perhaps 2% across the board from agency budgets.

This is not the time to cut the budgets of the agencies that regulate public utilities.

I could possibly see this IF those agencies were funded with tax dollars. However, as I understand it, ratepayers pay all the costs of regulation through their utility bills - no tax money is involved. The Legislature appropriates the money, which the utilities pay the State at the beginning of its July to June financial year. The utilities collect it from us when we pay our monthly bills. So the state is only acting to facilitate the transfer of the funds we pay through our monthly bills.

To cut funding of the agencies that regulate public utilities, without a concurrent cut in the the funds we pay through our monthly bills, would represent backdoor taxation.

Further weakening of the regulation public utilities would be bad for the public.

To keep in step with increasing utility rates, regulatory budgets should have gone up by more than \$2.5M over the past 5 years. They have actually increased by just \$0.75M, and that just since July 2007. Ratepayers aren't eager to pay more for regulation, but that \$0.75M helped save us \$140M this year.

Frankly I'd MUCH prefer to return to the days when the regulators litigating rates publicly rather than negotiating them privately, or at least negotiating the rates in public.

From: Julie Orchard
To: Petersen, Rea
Date: 9/23/2008 4:10 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Richard Davies

CC:
Another. JPO

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 9/23/2008 11:10 AM >>>

Below is an inquiry which was received by the Governor's Office of Constituent Services on 09/23/2008. Please respond directly to the constituent and reply to this email with a copy of your response by 10/7/2008.

Richard J. Davies

Office Phone:none

Email

SUBJECT:
Dear Governor Huntsman:

I am a registered Republican and have been quite pleased with your governing of Utah. However, one area that has always concerned me is the way your administration has allowed (helped?) the PSC lose its ability to help the ratepayers. I am concerned that the utilities have so much influence and lobbying ability in Utah and the citizens have so little.

Please correct this injustice in Utah by giving the PSC more power to stand up to the utilities. Politically, it will remove a big election issue the Democratic Candidate has.

Sincerely,

Richard Davies

From: Julie Orchard
To: Petersen, Rea
Date: 9/23/2008 3:29 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from George Smith

CC:

Here is another inquiry related to the RMP 07-035-93 rate case and for response. Thanks. JPO

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 9/23/2008 8:27 AM >>>

Below is an inquiry which was received by the Governor's Office of Constituent Services on 09/23/2008. Please respond directly to the constituent and reply to this email with a copy of your response by 10/7/2008.

George Houston Smith

UT

Email

SUBJECT:
TO: Governor Jon M. Huntsman Jr.

SUBJECT: Utility Regulatory Agency Budget

My understanding of the purpose for creating and funding UTAH State Utility Regulatory Agencies is to ensure that Utah residents are being treated fairly with regard to utility rates, as compared to private company service used in the competitive market place.

At the present time, Utah residents are experiencing an extremely painful exposure to the mismanagement of a utility that involves a flagrant lack of QUALITY CONTROL capability, EQUIPMENT ENGINEERING expertise, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING practices and EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION and MAINTENANCE capabilities.

The utility described above is the Questar Gas Company and for the stated reasons I believe reducing the oversight and control budgets of the Utah Regulatory Agencies would be inappropriate and ill-advised at this time.

Please reconsider taking this budget reduction step until (at least) after the Public Service Commission of Utah, the Utah Division of Public Utilities and the Utah Committee of Consumer Services have satisfactorily resolved and properly settled the "OVER-BILLING", "UNDER-BILLING" and "UNFAIR-BILLING OF UTAH CUSTOMERS AT LARGE" issues that apparently have been occurring and growing since August 1996 due to the Questar Gas Company's inept implementation of their "Gas Metering Transponder Program".

Respectfully,

George H. Smith

From: Julie Orchard
To: Petersen, Rea
Date: 9/23/2008 3:30 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Kimberley Hansen

CC:
And another. JPO

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 9/23/2008 8:43 AM >>>

Below is an inquiry which was received by the Governor's Office of Constituent Services on 09/23/2008. Please respond directly to the constituent and reply to this email with a copy of your response by 10/7/2008.

Kimberley Hansen

Email

SUBJECT:

Please do not cut budgets for the agencies that regulate public utilities. My utility bills keep increasing. The utilities seem to be making more than ever. As a ratepayer who helps pay the cost of regulation in my monthly bill, I ask that you not cut the budget for the agencies regulating the near-monopoly utilities. Thank you.

From: Julie Orchard
To: Petersen, Rea
Date: 9/23/2008 3:31 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Al R

CC:
And yet another. JPO

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 9/23/2008 9:02 AM >>>
FYI

Al Lingenfelter R

UT

Email

SUBJECT:

This isn't the time to cut the budgets of the agencies that regulate public utilities.

Al Lingenfelter

From: Julie Orchard
To: Petersen, Rea
Date: 9/23/2008 3:32 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re:Inquiry from Janna Harrell

CC:

One more. Thanks. JPO

>>> Constituent Services <constituentservices@utah.gov> 9/23/2008 9:36 AM >>>

Below is an inquiry which was received by the Governor's Office of Constituent Services on 09/23/2008. Please respond directly to the constituent and reply to this email with a copy of your response by 10/7/2008.

Janna Harrell

Email |

SUBJECT:

Dear Sir,

Considering the financial fiasco the nation is currently facing it seems clear that reducing oversight of companies is the **WRONG** direction to take. I would hope we could all learn from our mistakes. Please, please do not cut the budgets of the utility regulatory agencies.

Unfortunately, it seems that greed and corporate interests will trump individual and societal needs if we do not oversee and keep large corporations in check.

Do **NOT** reduce agencies ability to regulate utilities.

Sincerely,
Janna Harrell